Pending cases and upgradation of judicial system

2164. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States propose to set up night courts to clear pending cases in the lower courts in the country.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the total number of court cases pending both in the lower courts and High Courts; and

(d) what is the action plan of the Centre to help the backward States *i.e.* Orissa, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, etc. to upgrade their judicial system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) The Central Government does not maintain any information in this regard. Under article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court. Hence, it is for the concerned High Court to set up night courts to clear pending cases at the lower courts in consultation with the concerned State Government.

(c) and (d) As per available information as on 31.12.2006 there are 39,91,251 cases pending in High Courts and 2,63, 92,004 cases pending in the lower courts. A Scheme for Computerization of District and Subordinate Courts, prepared in accordance with the National Policy and Action Plan has been approved by the Government on 8th February, 2007. The salient features of the Action Plan cover application and implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Judicial System in a phased manner involving computerization of all district and subordinate courts in the country and upgradation of facilities of the superior courts and electronic networking of the lowest court with the highest court. Government has already computerized the city courts in the four Metropolitan cities and State capitals or in cities where the principal seat of the High Court is located.